

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1, 4-6 and 9. Claims 2 and 3, which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, and by rewriting claim 3 in independent form as new claim 9. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. In addition, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. These claims and claims 4-6 have also been amended to improve their form. The specification and Abstract have been amended to remove British spellings. In addition, the specification has been to include headings and to remove reference to the claims. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The specification was objected to as lacking headings and as using British spellings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings, to remove reference to the claims, and to change British spellings to American spellings. The Abstract of the Disclosure has likewise been amended to remove British spellings and to delete reference to the figure. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments

overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification, and Applicants respectfully request that the objection on that basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 6 of the Office Action and the claims were also objected to because of certain informalities set forth on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 2-3, 7 and 8 and have amended claims 1 and 4-6 to improve their form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objection to the claims on the basis of these informalities and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Trionfetti U.S. Patent No. 6,657,341* in view of *Okumura U.S. Patent No. 5,255,566* for the reasons set forth on pages 7-9 of the Office Action. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form

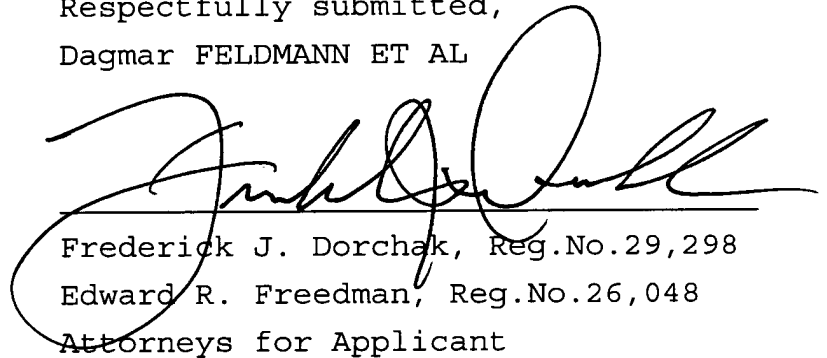
including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, have rewritten claim 3 in independent form as new claim 9, and have canceled claims 2-3 and 7-8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended and new claim 9, together with claims 4-6, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1 as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended, claims 2-3 and 7-8 have been canceled, and new claim 9 has been added. In addition, the specification and Abstract have been amended. In view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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